

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 12 and 14 - 18 are presently pending.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 has been amended to render the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph moot.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 – 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR'408 in view of US'401. FR '408, as acknowledged in the Office Action, fails to disclose an inner protective lining in the compartment and a reflective outer lining. US '401 was cited as disclosing “inherently” protective insulating layers. However, as described in Column 3, lines 19 – 24, the compartment is formed from flexible sheets of plastic or textiles, not protective insulating materials. There is no disclosure in US '401 of a inner protective lining or reflective outer lining. US '439 was cited as disclosing a reflecting lining on the outer side of the heater in a heating panel. US '439 discloses an underfoot foot warmer formed of a plywood base, heating pad and a reflective layer of aluminum foil placed beneath the heating pad and over the plywood base in order to warm the feet of an person sitting at a desk. US '439 is not directed to a drying compartment in a transportable container that has a heating element in panel having an inner protective lining and a reflective outer lining. US '439 does not suggest or teach the use of a reflective outer panel on a transportable container.

There is no suggestion or teaching in any of the multiple disclosures, taken either singly or in combination, of a drying compartment in a transportable container that has a heating element in panel having an inner protective lining and a reflective outer lining.

Claim 4 was rejected in view of combinations of FR '408, US '471, US '439 and US '861. US '861 is cited as disclosing a moisture collection means for a drying container. However, neither FR '408, US '471, or US '439 are concerned with humidity or condensation. Thus there is no motivation to modify the structure of those three references by adding the

moisture collection means of US '861. Further, US '861 fails to disclose the use of a heating element within the panel or even the use of a panel.

Claims 5 and 18 were rejected in view of FR '408, US '401, US '439 and US '346. Claims 5 and 18 include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected in view of FR '408, US '401, US '439 and US '012. Claims 7 and 8 include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Claims 9 – 11, 14 and 17 were rejected in view of the combination of FR '408, US '439 and US '346. These claims include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element. This limitation is not disclosed by any of the prior art references. Also, none of these references disclose a transportable container having at least three engagement points for the strap to be attached in different positions.

Claim 12 was rejected in view of the combination of FR '408, US '346, US '439 and US '861. However, neither FR '408 or US '471 are concerned with humidity or condensation. Thus there is no motivation to modify the structure of those two references by adding the moisture collection means of US '861. Further, claim 12 now includes the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected in view of FR '408, US '346, US '439 and US '012. These claims now include the limitation of a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating element which is not disclosed by any of the prior art references.

It is noted that claim 18 was not rejected under this line of rejections.

Alternative grounds of rejection

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected in view of US '861, US '439 and US '995. US '861 discloses a cabinet having rigid walls, air vents and a trough with an absorbent material. This cabinet does not disclose heating elements, a thermostat, electrical power, or a reflective outer layer adjacent the heating elements. US '995 discloses a towel warmer having walls and a center panel with electrical heating elements on the surfaces of the walls and center panel, not within the walls or center panel. The towel warmer also does not

have air vents, water retention means, or a reflective outer layer. US '439 discloses an underfoot foot warmer formed of a plywood base, heating pad and a reflective layer of aluminum foil placed beneath the heating pad and over the plywood base in order to warm the feet of an person sitting at a desk. US '439 is not directed to a drying compartment in a transportable container that has a heating element in panel having an inner protective lining and a reflective outer lining. US '439 does not suggest or teach the use of a reflective outer panel on a transportable container.

The combination of these three references do not disclose the critical limitations of the heating elements within the walls and panels to prevent damage to the equipment being heated or to the heating elements. Also the heating elements of this combination would be in danger of shorting due to the wet from the equipment being dried. Also, none of these references disclose a reflective outer layer. Also, none of these references disclose a transportable container having at least three engagement points for the strap to be attached in different positions.

FR'408 does not disclose, suggest or teach a system that uses a center panel with a heating element. US'401 is cited as disclosing a center panel with a heating element. It is noted however that US'401 discloses a partition with a heating element draped over it. There is no heating element contained within a center panel, nor is there any suggestion for doing so. The heating element disclosed in US'401 is used to warm textile garments whereas the heating element in the present invention is used to dry wet equipment, such as wetsuits, boots, etc. This wetness would short out the heating element in US'401. Thus it is critical to mount the heating element within the center panel. US'401 teaches away from this by merely draping the heating element over the center partition and along the sides. US '439 discloses an underfoot foot warmer formed of a plywood base, heating pad and a reflective layer of aluminum foil placed beneath the heating pad and over the plywood base in order to warm the feet of an person sitting at a desk. US '439 is not directed to a drying compartment in a transportable container that has a heating element in panel having an inner protective lining and a reflective outer lining. US '439 does not suggest or teach the use of a reflective outer panel on a transportable container.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 15 and 16 were rejected in view of the combination of US '861, US '995, US '439 and US '012. None of these references disclose the reflective outer layer.

The pending claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance. The Applicant hereby respectfully requests that those claims be indicated as allowable at the earliest possible time.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if further discussions would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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